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# Public Safety Broadband Wireless Network National Initiative

# Overview

- Objective of First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet)
- Potential Participants
- Responsibilities of FirstNet
- Timeline
- Funding
- Summary

# Objective of FirstNet

- Objective: Build a nationwide wireless broadband network for public safety – first responders
- “First responders” as primary and priority users, prohibited from consumer use
- Voice Interoperability Program for Emergency Responders (VIPER) is voice, FirstNet is initially data
  - VIPER P25 effort will continue
  - Department of Public Safety (DPS) will coordinate this effort

# Potential Participants

- Recognition that “emergency response” now requires data communications interoperability outside traditional police, fire, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel – other responders can also use FirstNet
  - Emergency Management
  - Utilities (power, gas, telecom, water, sewer)
  - State/Local Governmental (transportation, public health, education, National Guard)
  - Non-governmental organizations
  - Tribal
  - Federal Agencies/Departments

# Responsibilities of FirstNet

- Public Law 112-96 (February 2012) establishes an “independent authority within NTIA” (National Telecommunications and Information Administration – within US Department of Commerce) with responsibility for building and operating a nationwide public safety wireless broadband system
- Law states FirstNet headed by 15 member Board
  - Secretary of Homeland Security, US Attorney General, and Director of Office of Management and Budget are only legislated members
  - 12 members to be appointed by Secretary of Commerce
  - Members to be geopolitically diverse with expertise in Public Safety, Technology, Commercial Networks, and Finance
- FirstNet Board will select “agents, consultants, and experts” to design, deploy, and operate network

# Responsibilities of FirstNet

- Different levels of State participation possible
  - Legislation allows individual state's to “opt out” of FirstNet doing the design, deployment, and operation of a state network
  - If a state “opts out” and FirstNet approves state's alternative, then 80% of FirstNet funds are provided (state provides 20% match)
  - Grant Programs available
  - Either way there will be recurring costs (user fees)
  - Important decision when more information is available
- FirstNet is required to ensure “substantial rural coverage” for “each phase” of “construction and deployment” by “partnerships with existing commercial mobile providers” to “cost effectively” “speed deployment”
  - This “partnership” “could” mean better coverage for “rural, Tribal, wilderness, maritime, and park” responders and customers

# FirstNet Timeline

Dates & Times	Project Activities
August 20, 2012	Secretary of Commerce appoints 12 FirstNet Board Members
TBD	FirstNet Board “agents, consultants, and experts” are selected
Prior to February 20, 2013	NTIA/FirstNet establishes a State Grant Program (\$135 million to support FirstNet planning nationwide)
TBD	State initiates FirstNet plan process and submits broadband requirements/plan to NTIA/FirstNet
TBD	FirstNet completes RFP and notifies each Governor to make a decision
90 Days from notification	Governor has 90 days respond to NTIA/FirstNet - as a participant with FirstNet or to “opt out” and construct a North Carolina system (must be interoperable)
180 Days after Opt Out	Governor has 180 days to provide an alternative RFP if the decision is to “opt out”
TBD	Approval process of State submission
2017 Timeframe	Auction of frequency spectrum – additional funds possible

# Funding

- FirstNet intended to be “Deficit neutral” (built with proceeds from spectrum auctions, from partners, and sustained by user fees)
- Many aspects of spectrum auction still unknown
  - What spectrum will be auctioned
  - Proceed amount from auction
  - 2017 auction timeline
- Legislation allows FirstNet to proceed - with US Department of Treasury “loans”
  - \$135 million for planning
  - \$2 billion for construction



## Funding (continued)

- Sometime in 2017 auctions are expected
  - First use of funds is to relocate existing users of auction spectrum
    - Federal agencies, TV stations, and unknown other users
    - Some user relocation cost estimates have been as great as expected spectrum proceeds (\$20 billion)
  - Repay \$135 million and \$2 billion loans
  - \$7 billion minus borrowed loan amount
  - \$100 million, public safety R&D
  - \$20.4 billion, Deficit reduction
  - \$115 million, 911, E911, & NG911
  - \$200 million, additional public safety R&D

# Completed Activities

- Public Law 112-96 enacted on February 22, 2010
- FCC created an Interoperability Board (14 Members)
- Board tasked with providing recommended minimum technical requirements to ensure Nationwide Interoperability, report completed on May 22, 2012, Board terminated on July 6, 2012
- Governor assigned responsibility to State CIO on May 21, 2012
- June 6, 2012 State submitted response to RFI from National Telecommunications and Information Administration/ National Governors Association
- State Briefings at the National Governors Association/National Association of State Chief Information Officers Conference – June 28/29, 2012 (NC was represented by Office of State CIO, State Highway Patrol, & CJIN Board)

# Summary

## Continue To:

- Work as a Team
- Identify all the users in NC that may be impacted by this project
- Expand the Team as we identify additional first responders
- Identify State assets that could advance NC implementation
- Contact the NC electric utilities and telecommunication companies
- Contact the Tribal users
- Monitor the establishment of the FirstNet Board and the formation of any FirstNet Advisory Board
- Request guidelines for the State Requirements submission
- Work with bordering states as well as other progressive states.
- Monitor the grant process
- Provide briefings to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Information Technology
- All the while – misinformation and positioning continues
  - Voice vs. Data, costs, coverage, control, proprietary extensions, asset confiscation, and States Rights



# Questions?

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